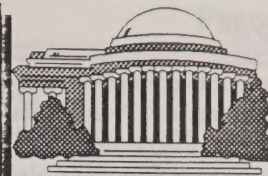




The Capitol Hill Monitor



Volume 2 Issue 5 (1996)

SCANNING BEACH

PATROLS

by Alan Henney

Can you speak and read the English language and complete a 400-meter ocean swim in less than 10 minutes? If so, you might make the perfect candidate for a job with the Ocean City Beach Patrol. Each year Ocean City hires more than 150 surf rescue technicians (SRTs) to guard the city's 10.5-mile long beach. And lifeguards like these offer some of the most entertaining scanner listening for beach goers with scanners.

After monitoring the guards, it's obvious that swimmers in distress aren't the only challenges they face. Returning lost children, dealing with top-less sunbathers and intoxicated beach goers and enforcing other city ordinances provide a unique collage of mayhem found only at the beach. SRT salaries, by the way, start at \$7.30 per hour after passing the 21-day probationary period.

Going to the beach this summer? Make certain that along with the beach stuff you bring your scanner. Give these frequencies a try and let us know if you discover anything new -- especially if you visit a beach we didn't list. Wherever possible we marked those frequencies with a "*" which are primarily used by the listed jurisdiction's police. The beach patrol can use these frequencies, but usually only by supervisors to call for assistance. A "#" indicates that the beach patrol shares the channel with other agencies of the listed jurisdiction.

Our thanks go to lifeguard expert Larry Fowler, Rob Kruez and Larry Kumjian for their assistance.

DELAWARE BEACHES

Bethany: 154.8*
Dewey Beach: 27.125 AM (CB14), 155.01*
Fenwick Island: Possibly 155.01 or 155.04
Henlopen Acres: Lifeguards provided by North Shores
Lewes: 159.09*
North Shores: 154.57#, 154.6#
Rehoboth Beach: 156.03, 154.74*, 154.875*
South Bethany: 155.805
State Park Rangers (DNREC): 44.68*, 44.72*, 44.92*, 45.28*

JERSEY BEACHES

Atlantic City: 39.34, 453.35
Avalon Borough: 453.9875, 453.75#
Avon by the Sea: 45.32
Beach Haven: 155.16
Belmar: 150.79
Bradley Beach: 42.28
Cape May City: 153.86#, 153.965#, 155.7*
Island Beach State Park: 159.465
Long Beach Township: 46.0
Manasquan: 154.025
Monmouth County Park Rangers: 151.31
North Wildwood: 155.16, 158.76#
Ocean City: 155.145, 453.95#
Sea Girt: 158.91
Ship Bottom: 460.125
Spring Lake: 154.6
Ventnor City: 45.32
Wildwood City: 155.745
Wildwood Crest: 158.865#

MARYLAND BEACHES

Ocean City,
multi-agency trunked system:
853.9625, 855.2375, 856.7375,
857.7375, 858.7375, 859.7375,
859.9875, 860.7375, 860.9875;
conventional: 866.0125;
Also check former channels, 154.04,
155.22, 155.37, for supervisors.

SOUTH CAROLINA BEACHES

Myrtle Beach: 461.4

VIRGINIA BEACHES

North Beach Rescue: 155.22
Sandbridge Beach 154.57, 464.025
Virginia Beach Lifesaving: 155.235, 155.295
Virginia Beach Patrol: 154.515, 155.295



INSIDE CECIL COUNTY'S FIRE DISPATCH

by John Korman (89421@UDeL.Edu)

On Friday, May 3, I visited the Cecil County fire dispatch center. Located in the heart of Elkton, Maryland, underneath the courthouse, the small "modernized" room has four consoles, one of which is normally used for training. My tour guide was Tony Leonardi, a dispatcher and Maryland firefighter.

The Cecil County communications center takes all 9-1-1 calls for Cecil County; wherever you are in the county, the person answering the 9-1-1 line is in the fire communications center in Elkton. Four lines are devoted to the enhanced 9-1-1 system while four others are for non-emergency numbers.

Should someone not need a fire truck or ambulance, the Cecil County fire dispatcher forwards the call with a click of a button to either MSP North East or the JFK Memorial Highway barrack, Cecil County Sheriff, or another agency. Where the call is forwarded depends on the loca-

tion of the caller and the discretion of the dispatcher. Sometimes calls can be forwarded to either MSP or Cecil County Sheriff as MSP also responds to calls off the interstates (I-95).

Three shifts, 0800-16:00, 16:00-2400, and 24:00-0800, operate daily in the fire communications center. A minimum of two personnel, one of which is a supervisor, work each shift. Cecil County has two transmit sites for its primary fire channel because the rural county is so spread out. The channel plan looks like this:

- 46.18 CH1 Dispatch
- 46.26 CH2 Fireground (east)
- 46.40 CH3 Fireground (west)
- 46.54 CH4 Siren Control

The county has no plans to switch to a trunked system or even a repeater. Cecil County, Tony noted, first would like to install CAD computer terminals in its fire stations and apparatus before anything else, but that is in the distant future. In the fire stations no printouts of emergency runs are available. Personnel must listen carefully to the second and further dispatches to get the location of an emergency call. In addition to the numerous re-dispatches, patient information is also provided to responders over the air.

The station alerting system is computerized. With a mouse the dispatcher can click on the screen and highlight stations whose pager tones need to be sounded as well as the station's bullhorn roared to summon the volunteers. Once the stations are highlighted, "SEND" is clicked on the computer screen and the computer does the rest!

As of now only paramedics in Cecil County are paid. Firefighters and EMTs are volunteer. After 11 p.m. selected fire stations choose not to have their ambulance tones sounded, only the fire tones! The communications center has a notebook with information certain stations provide with details of who is on duty each night to staff the ambulance. After 7 a.m. the tones are

again sounded for the ambulance in those stations which chose not to sound them overnight. There is no explanation for this.

Most calls are for the three Elkton fire stations, but the call volume is not near the volume of any Washington area fire station. Cecil County fire stations are as follows:

- 1 Cecilton
- 2 Chesapeake City
- 3 Elkton (Pulaski Hwy)
- 4 North East
- 5 Charlestown
- 6 Perryville
- 7 Port Deposit
- 8 Rising Sun
- 9 Hacks Point
- 10 Not Used
- 11 Perry Point VA Hospital
- 12 Naval Training Center (disbanded)
- 13 Elkton (Newark Rd)
- 14 Elkton (Kenmore, Rt 213)

Most ambulance patients are taken to Union Memorial in Cecil County while other patients from further stations are transported to Harford County Memorial Hospital. The primary med channel is Med 5, 463.1 (468.1 for ambulance).

Cecil County frequently responds on mutual aid calls with New Castle County, Delaware, and Harford County. Cecil County firefighters use 10 codes similar to those used by Delaware along with selected MSP 10 codes, such as 10-50 for auto accident. Drop Alan a reply envelope if you need a copy.

Next to some consoles rests a Bearcat 855XLT scanning the numerous banks keeping the dispatchers awake and aware at work as the call volume is quite low. With the 70+ foot antenna outside the communications center, dispatchers can monitor counties nearby, such as New Castle and Harford, as well as Baltimore. On good nights dispatchers receive Philadel-

phia fire: Anne Arundel, Howard and Kent counties in Maryland.



UPDATES FROM THE EASTERN SHORE

OCEAN CITY'S TRUNKED SYSTEM UPDATE. Like last year, the "anti-scanner" tones on Ocean City's General Electric trunked system continue to be more subtle. Now the system sends a series of four or so soft tones after each transmission. This stalls the scanner on that frequency for several seconds while the conversation may continue on another frequency. This makes scanning the system difficult.

Fortunately 460.425 now appears to simulcast the police department's primary patrol talkgroup. The fire department's 46.36 continues to simulcast the primary fire talkgroup. Both frequencies transmit carrier squelch. 154.025 [146.2], the former sanitation frequency, is now used for patches into the trunked system for medevac helicopters.

COAST GUARD STATIONS JOIN FORCES. Over the winter Coast Guard Station Indian River left Group Cape May and joined Station Ocean City with Group Eastern Shore. As a result of the change, Station Indian River operates on channel 23 (157.15), which is also used by Station Ocean City.

ANOTHER CROSS-BAND REPEATER? We have confirmed another cross-band repeater to add to the list which appeared in the May issue. The Elsmere, Delaware fire department has a repeater on 453.9 (CTCSS of 192.8) which repeats 33.78.

BETHANY BEACH GETS NEW REPEATER. Bethany Beach started the season with a new repeater. So far only public works (water and sewer crews) use the 158.835 repeater which has an input of 153.92 and CTCSS of 110.9.

SEA COLONY SECURITY GONE? Security guards at Sea Colony appear to have left 151.835. Sea Colony, which often promotes itself as the largest planned resort community east of the Mississippi River, erected a repeater on 151.835 for its security staff about two years ago. The FCC has traditionally discouraged repeaters on the 151 MHz business band and perhaps this led to the change. 151.835 is also overly congested on the shore. We'll be searching for the new frequency in the UHF business band (461-465) and hopefully have it by the next issue. Sea Colony maintenance crews still communicate on 151.925 with a DCS of 073 (simplex).

MORE GOODIES FOR SUSSEX COUNTY PARAMEDICS. Chase cars used by the Sussex County, Delaware paramedics are equipped with an arsenal of electronics that would make most urban fire departments envious. Each medic has a 33 MHz county fire radio (MaxTrac), a UHF radio (Syntor) with med and volunteer fire department channels; and a leased 800 MHz portable trunked radio (MTX) which the paramedics use for administrative chit-chat.

If that wasn't enough, a GPS automatic vehicular locator (AVL) system transmits each medic vehicle location to a map display in the Georgetown EOC over 154.01 with a DCS of 023 (sounds just like MSP's helicopter AVL on 44.74). The medic units have status message encoders which consist of preset buttons which, when pressed, transmit the units' status to the EOC's CAD system on 463.175/468.175. And finally, each medic unit has a vehicular repeater system that links the UHF mobile with a portable radio over 458.025.

The paramedics now use what appear to be the identical Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System (AMPDS) codes that the District uses for processing and dispatching EMS calls. The dispatcher often pro-

vides responding paramedics with the AMPDS code (such as 27-Delta-1) along with other patient information on 462.95 and 462.975 (both 192.8). The codes were developed by Medical Priority Consultants. Refer to the December newsletter for the complete list or send us a reply envelope. Medic unit designations are as follows:

EMS 100 Shift Commander
Medic 101 Lincoln
Medic 102 Blades
Medic 103 Stockley Center
Medic 104 Lewes
Medic 105 Millville
Medic 106 Roving Unit

NO. THE MARITIME TELEPHONE SERVICE IS NOT DEAD! Boaters on the Delmarva peninsula don't need a cellular phone to make a call -- just a VHF marine radio. Maritel Communications owns more than 130 marine telephone stations nationwide. Last Fall the company purchased those stations owned in this area by Bell Atlantic.

Use of the somewhat primitive telephone patches has declined with the increased popularity of cellular telephone. But the Maritel stations have streamlined the call-making process with less operator involvement and centralized control from Gullport, Mississippi. We will have more details on Maritel in a coming newsletter. In the meantime, listen for the base side of the marine telephone stations on nine channels from 161.8 through 162.0, every 25 KHz. Each of the nine base frequencies are paired with the boat side on 157.2 through 157.4, respectively.



PRESETS FROM DELAWARE AIR NATIONAL GUARD C-130

While on the shore here's a list of preset frequencies from a C-130 based at the New Castle County Airport (tail numbers are DE AF/84 206).

1 123.950 ILG ATIS
2 121.700 ILG Ground
3 126.000 ILG Tower
4 119.750 Philly Departure
5 118.350 Philly Approach
6 128.000 Dover Approach
7 126.350 Dover Tower
8 121.900 Dover Ground
9 134.250 ACY Approach
10 124.600 ACY Approach
11 127.500 McGuire Approach
12 120.300 ACY Tower
13 121.900 ACY Ground
14 127.850 ACY Clearance
15 126.200 Lakehurst Tower
16 135.725 Giant Killer
(W-107/8 Area)
17 and 18 Unused
19 122.200 Millville Radio
20 121.500 Emergency

1 343.000 See Bee
2 398.100 Coyle Drop Zone
3 286.200 Warren Grove (Primary)
4 286.700 Warren Grove (Secondary)
5 344.600 PMSV (Standard)
6 342.500 PMSV (Dover)
7 239.800 PMSV (McGuire)
8 255.400 Flight Service Station
9 349.400 Dover Command Post
10 319.400 McGuire Command Post
11 249.800 Giant Killer
(W-107/8 Area)
12 255.000 Giant Killer
(W-107/8 Area)
13 through 20 Unused

A few explanatory notes concerning some of the abbreviations and call signs noted above. ILG, of course, is the FAA designation for New Castle County Airport. Giantkiller is the east coast call sign for the Navy FACS FAC station that controls the warning areas along the coast. These are

areas where military training, among other things, take place and entry/exit is tightly controlled. Coyle drop zone is located in New Jersey and is used for practice parachute drops, especially cargo drops. Millville radio is a flight service station in southern New Jersey. Warren Grove is another training area. PMSV is an Air Force acronym. Essentially, it provides aviation weather reports and receives weather data from aircraft. See Bee is probably the call sign for the airlift wing to which the aircraft is assigned. If anyone can confirm that, please let us know.

PRESETS FROM ARMY HELICOPTER AH-1F? (FROM EDGEWOOD, MD)

Here's another preset list which might be useful. No channel usages were listed. 33.4 appeared on the radio's display.

1	125.40
2	121.80
3	132.10
4	139.30
5	122.55
6	122.30
7	124.7%
8	122.70
9	122.80
10	123.00
11	140.30
12	120.25
13	118.00
14	123.80
15	124.00
16	126.20
17	118.75
18	118.30
19	126.10
20	139.20

SCANNER FREQUENCIES FOR REHOBOTH AND DEWEY BEACHES

by Alan Henney

Rehoboth Beach VFD,

VHF "Low-Band" Radio (no CTCSS)

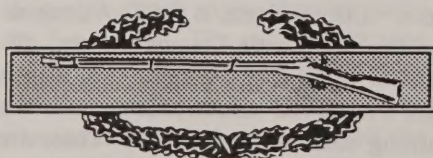
33.78 s	CH1 Statewide Dispatch
33.96 s	CH2 Sussex County Alternate (east)
33.92 s	CH3 Sussex County Alternate (central)
33.72 s	CH4 Sussex County Alternate (west)
33.86 s	Former CH2 (see note)

Some fire departments in Sussex County use additional channels beyond the first four. In Millville and Milton, for example, 33.86 is now channel 5 -- used for water shuttles and drills (no longer monitored by the EOC). 33.42, primarily a portable tactical channel, and 33.58, often used by fire police, are also popular with the volunteer departments throughout the county.

Rehoboth Beach VFD, UHF "High-Band"

453.3000	r [023]	CH 1: Reho 1; cross-repeats	33.78
453.3000	s [023]	CH 2: Reho 2; talkaround	
453.2500	r [023]	CH 3: Reho 3; operations	
453.2500	s [023]	CH 4: Reho 4; talkaround	
453.6500	s [023]	CH 5: Reho 5; tactical	
453.6500	r [82.5]	CH 6: Lewes; cross-repeats	33.96 *
453.6500	r [051]	CH 7: Lewes; operations	
453.6500	s [051]	CH 8: Lewes; talkaround	
460.6000	r [67.0]	CH 9: Bethany; cross-repeats	33.96 *
460.5750	r [023]	CH10: Bethany 7; operations	
460.6250	r [100.0]	CH11: Milford; operations	
460.6250	r [107.2]	CH12: Milford; cross-repeats	33.78 *
460.6375	r [192.8]	CH13: Millsboro; operations	*
462.9750	r [192.8]	CH14: Med 10; East Sussex Co EMS	
460.7000	s [245]	CH15: AVC; talkaround	
460.7000	r [245]	CH16: AVC; operations	
452.3750	d [151.4]	Link between Station 86 and substation	
463.0000	s [192.8]	Med 1 Paramedic "talkaround"	
463.1250	d [192.8]	Med 6 Ambulance-BMC ER (468.125 mobile)	

Channels in the list above marked by an asterisk receive carrier squelch but transmit with the tone indicated. All other channels use the listed tone for transmit and receive. AVC is an audio-visual company with which many volunteers are affiliated. AVC may now operate on 461.3.



Rehoboth Beach Police

154.740 s [156.7] CH1 RBPB Duty Channel
 154.875 s [156.7] CH2 RBPB Alternate
 154.755 r [123.0] CH3 DSP 3 "SusCom" (154.71 in)
 154.695 s [123.0] CH4 DSP 4 "Data"
 155.850 d [None] CH5 Dewey PD Mobile to Base (P/W 155.01)
 155.010 s [None] CH6 Dewey PD Base/Mobile-to-Mobile
 154.800 s [None] CH7 Bethany Beach Police
 154.860 s [None] CH8 Statewide Emergency Net "SWEN"
 155.850 s [None] CH9 Dewey mobile

Rehoboth Beach Parking Meter Department

155.250 s [None] CH1 Operations
 154.740 s [156.7] CH2 RBPB (selected mobiles only)

Rehoboth Beach Patrol

156.030 s [None] CH1 Operations
 154.740 s [156.7] CH2 RBPB (captain only)
 154.875 s [156.7] CH2 RBPB (other radios)

Other Rehoboth Beach Frequencies

155.820 s [156.7] CH1 Shared Local Government
 154.875 s [156.7] CH2 RBPB (selected units only)
 453.400 r [114.8] Sewage Lift Stations Motorola Intrac (data only)

Radio designations are as follows:

"Rehoboth" City Manager's Office
 "M" units Maintenance Department
 10's Public Works Department
 30's Water Department ("W" units)
 40's Waste-Water Department
 50's Waste-Water Plant
 70's Building & Licensing Department
 100's Public Works Department

Dewey Beach Police Department

155.850 d [None] CH1 Dewey PD Car-to-Base (P/W 155.01)
 155.010 s [None] CH2 Dewey PD Base/Car-to-Car
 154.755 r [123.0] CH3 DSP 3 Command "SusCom" (154.71 in)
 154.860 s [None] CH4 DSP 8 "SWEN"
 154.695 s [123.0] CH5 DSP 4 Car-to-Car "Data"
 154.740 s [156.7] CH6 RBPB 1 Duty Channel
 154.875 s [156.7] CH7 RBPB 2 Alternate
 155.910 d [None] CH8 Bethany Beach PD Car-to-Base (P/W 154.8)
 154.800 s [None] CH9 Bethany Beach PD Base/Car-to-Car

Dewey Beach Patrol (portable CB radio)

27.125 s [None] CB CH14 (AM)

Other Frequencies Active in Rehoboth and Dewey

48.240 s Delmarva Power. Centralized Disp Rehoboth Area (F1)
 48.300 s Delmarva Power. Systemwide and After Hours (F2)
 122.750 s Banner Airplanes. Between Lewes and Ocean City
 122.900 s Banner Airplanes. Between Lewes and Ocean City
 123.500 s Banner Airplanes. Between Lewes and Ocean City
 147.330 r Amateur Repeater on Dewey Water Tower (147.93 in)
 151.625 s Brighton Suites (CSQ);
 Coconuts and the Waterfront (DPL 156);
 Grotto Pizza, In-Store Radios (F1. DPL 132);
 Rusty Rudder-Ruddertowne. Bouncers (CSQ);
 Three Seasons Campground (F2. 100.0 Hz)
 151.655 s [d723] Grotto Pizza, Deliveries
 151.685 s [d132] Grotto Pizza, In-Store Radios (F2) |
 151.805 s Star of the Sea Condominium, Management (DPL 165)
 151.835 s Henlopen Condominium, Maintenance (167.9 Hz)
 151.865 s Confidential Services (F1. 107.2 Hz)
 Rusty Rudder-Ruddertowne. Bouncers-Inactive (71.9)
 151.895 s Confidential Services (F2. 107.2 Hz)
 151.925 s Three Seasons Campground, Maint. and Shuttle (F1. 100.0 Hz)
 152.840 s Bell Atlantic Paging, Site @ 408 Reho Av
 152.900 s Fun Land Amusement Park, Haunted Mansion (F1. 167.9 Hz)
 153.260 s Fun Land Amusement Park, Park Operations (F2. 167.9 Hz)
 154.515 s Blue Hen Towing (110.9 Hz)
 154.540 s Clearwater Plumbing, Heating & Air Cond (100.0 Hz)
 Dennard F Quillen & Sons Contractors (88.5 Hz)
 154.570 s Atlantic Sands Motel,
 Front Desk, Housekeeping and Maintenance;
 North Shores Beach Club,
 Lifeguards and Maintenance (CSQ);
 Summerhouse Restaurant & Saloon,
 Bouncers (192.8 Hz)
 154.600 s Boardwalk Plaza Hotel (CSQ);
 Breakers Motel, Housekeeping (CSQ);
 North Shores Beach Club,
 Lifeguards and Maintenance (CSQ)
 158.700 s Redi-Call Paging, Henlopen Hotel Site
 460.700 r Audio Visual Communications (new, DPL 245)
 461.300 r Lynam's Beach Service

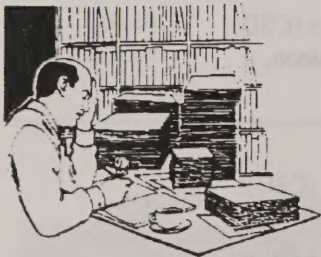
- 461.325 r
Audio Visual Communications (former F1, DPL 245);
Resorts Investigations & Patrol
(F1r/F2s, 118.8 Hz & DPL 134)
- 462.675 r Trahos. GMRS (110.9, 141.3-transient use)
- 463.475 r Seaport Transportation (F?, 82.5 Hz)
- 464.500 r Ocean Outlets (123.0 Hz)
- 464.575 r Seaport Transportation (F1, 82.5 Hz)
- 464.725 r Seaport Transportation (F3, 82.5 Hz)
- 464.750 r Comcast Cable (162.2 Hz)
- 856.5625 Coastal Towing (leased LTR trunked system)
- 857.5625 Coastal Towing (leased LTR trunked system)
- 858.5625 Coastal Towing (leased LTR trunked system)
- 859.5625 Coastal Towing (leased LTR trunked system)
- 860.5625 Coastal Towing (leased LTR trunked system)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SCANNER LISTENERS

John Scott sends along the following: July 28 BRATS Hamfest (Timonium); Aug. 4 Berryville VA Hamfest; Aug. 15-18 International EME Convention (Bowie); Aug. 18 Sussex ARA/Delmarva Hamfest (Georgetown, DE); Sept. 8 FARFEST '96 (Gaithersburg).

FOR SALE

Larry Cordell seeks a buyer for his 20-channel Bearcat 210XLT base scanner (\$50) and 200-channel Pro-34 portable with the 800 MHz cellular band (asking \$200, paid \$300). If interested call 301-253-2450 (home), 301-631-2213 (work) or 301-414-9019 (pager).



NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker

CONVENTION CHAOS.

When the Democratic party met in Atlanta in 1988, only 5 percent of the participants were packing cell phones or other wire-

less devices. In New York in 1992, it was up to 25 percent. But this summer in Chicago, said a spokeswoman for Ameritech Corp., "We're planning that everybody that shows up at the convention will have at least a cell phone and/or a pager." Approximately 35,000 politicians and media types are expected.

Party officials, writes the May 14 Chicago Tribune, are "bracing for an even more unprecedented array of technology: two-way pagers, laptop computers, cellular modems, walkie-talkies, teeny-weeny TVs, Internet links, video conferencing, microwave hookups, satellite dishes and more... That raises the specter of communication gridlock and offers a delectable target for high-tech thieves and snoops."

With 37 million Americans now estimated to own cell phones, the number in use at the Aug. 26-29 Democratic convention will be a drop in the bucket. But rarely do so many wireless users get together in such a small space. They'll share the spectrum with an army of electronically laden media as well as police, fire and Secret Service officials all gabbing on their own communications channels.

Broadcast, telephone and government officials have formed a "frequency committee" to divvy up airspace. Ron Hacker, the broadcast coordinator for the committee, said more than 1,700 frequencies already have been assigned for both conventions, and that doesn't include channels regularly used by public safety and security agencies.

To eliminate interference in close quarters, RF devices must be tuned to peak operating efficiency and run at the lowest feasible power levels, explained Hacker, a technical manager with CNN. Ten days before each convention, broadcasters run tests called "RF war games," essentially firing up all equipment to look for overlapping signals.

In the parking lot Ameritech will park a mobile cellular switching station known as a COW, an acronym for Cellular on Wheels. The company frequently takes COWs to special events. Cellular pirates, who cost the industry more than \$650 million last year, are also expected to show up at the convention. At the Democratic convention the anti-cloning forces will be led by the Secret Service's Counterfeit Crimes Task Force, based in Chicago, and Ameritech's loss prevention department.

FORMER HACKERS SHARE THEIR SECRETS. The June 3 Forbes featured an interview with three "former hackers" and a security expert who discuss "technology's latest growth industry: espionage." "What we learned," warns Forbes, "will scare you." In a hotel suite across from Oracle, the "three former hackers gaze at the company's headquarters. They laugh." They tell how they could cripple the database company. "It wouldn't even be hard," the article said.

"They -- or skilled hackers hired by a competitor -- could peek into Oracle's financial documents. Listen to important cellular phone conversations. Or wipe the company's computers out with one electro-magnetic pulse fired from a \$300 ray-gun. With enough money and expertise, espionage experts could even manipulate -- yes, manipulate -- Oracle's stock price."

When asked how he would monitor someone's cell-phone conversation, Tagent, one of the hackers, replied, "Buy a product off the shelf." Another hacker named Matt added that "Anybody with a scanner can do that." "If I were going to find out what is going on at Oracle," Tagent said he "could probably go over there with a complete cell-site monitoring system for like \$2,000 that would monitor the A and B channel, even and odd. I could sit in that parking lot and anybody that was foolish enough to use a cellular phone..." In the 6700-word interview the hackers tell all sorts of stories including how their colleagues commandeered unsuspecting people's baby monitors and drive-thru window intercoms.

CELLULAR THEFTS INCREASING.

From January through the end of April, reported the May 9 Capital, 198 theft-from-auto reports were taken by Annapolis police. In more than one fourth of the cases, cellular phones were stolen, said the head of the department's Automobile Larceny Education Reduces Thefts program. Through an advertising campaign the program hopes to educate vehicle owners about actions they can take to reduce smash-and-grabs and auto thefts. The officer says he believes most of the cellular phones stolen locally end up sold and reprogrammed for someone else's use.

STARLING JOINS METRO TRAFFIC.

Airborne traffic reporter Walt Starling, who has been grounded since Dec. 21, reports the June 4 Washington Post, has signed on with Metro Traffic. He will likely report for WWRC-AM (980) and its sister station, WEBR-FM (99.5). Starling, 44, who began his traffic career in 1974 and is the only area traffic reporter to pilot his own aircraft, has been off the

air since CBS-owned WARW-FM (94.7) opted not to renew his exclusive contract.

Before reporting for WARW, Starling reported for WAVA (on 166.25), WASH (on 450.25) and WPGC (on 450.7). Metro Traffic provides reports to 33 area radio and five TV stations. Starling may also contribute to a TV newscast.

SCANNER LISTENERS. BAD FOLKS?

"The lives of members of the royal family and senior politicians are being put at risk by radio hackers," charged the May 12 Times. "A group of [British] radio enthusiasts is distributing lists of sensitive frequencies that would enable terrorists to track the precise movements of VIPs and eavesdrop on secret police operations. Using hand-held scanners which are readily available from high-street electronics shops, a group of dedicated listeners has compiled a 100-page directory of frequencies, including those used by specialist police units such as the royal and diplomatic protection squads and others involved in anti-terrorist and firearm operations."

"Special branch frequencies used at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle have already been distributed, a Sunday Times investigation has found. Others include frequencies used by nuclear and biological weapon research establishments, RAF bomb storage dumps and Eurotunnel's security network. Even channels used by police protecting Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, have been discovered and circulated."

"The group, which calls itself the Professional Radio Operator Monitoring Association (PROMA), plans to publish its lists of frequencies and put them out on the Internet. Police officers and security experts have expressed concern... Members of the group, however, believe they are highlighting security loopholes which could and should be filled. Secure radio systems have been available for years, they say, but have not been utilized by police and other protection units

because of inertia and cost-cutting."

"Frequencies have been published in newsletters seen by The Sunday Times which are available to more than 60 members for a subscription of Pounds 30 a year. They include ones for GCHQ security, the Williams' Formula One racing team and Ministry of Defense police."

"Hackers tour the country with their scanners, listening to transmissions until they identify who the messages relate to [sound familiar?]. They claim to have found the individual call-signs for the units protecting members of the royal family, including the Queen, and many senior politicians. 'They make it easy for us,' said one leading member of PROMA. They have not changed the call-signs in years. The call-sign for John Major is the same one they used for Mrs. Thatcher when she was prime minister."

Each bulletin carries the warning: "To use this information with a scanner contravenes the Wireless and Telegraphy Act 1949." It is legal to own a scanner in England but using it to eavesdrop is forbidden on channels used by the military or emergency services. Officials at the Radio Communications Agency, which operates on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry, confirmed that publishing lists of frequencies did not on its own breach the act.

LISTENING TO POLICE RADIO ILLEGAL.

In England, the May 17 Times reported that in a May 9 court judgment (Director of Public Prosecutions v Waite Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Newman) "It was clear that tuning a radio scanner to a police frequency and listening to police messages when not authorized to do so was an offense."

The law reads "Any person who... otherwise than under the authority of the secretary of state... uses any wireless telegraphy apparatus with intent to obtain information as to the contents, sender or addressee of any message... which neither the person using the apparatus nor any person on whose behalf he is acting is authorized by the secretary of state to re-

ceive... shall be guilty of an offense..."

"The appellant had submitted that the police channel transmitted nothing but information and had no educational, recreational or entertainment function. It was impossible to listen to the channel without obtaining information as to the messages transmitted on it. The statute provided that any person who intended to do so was guilty of an offense. By contrast a person who chanced upon the channel while tuning a radio and passed over it could not be said to intend to obtain information and therefore was not guilty of an offense."

SCANNER LISTENER NABS ROBBER!

A man walked into SunTrust Bank in Tennessee and handed a bank teller a note demanding money, according to a police press release reported in the May 7 Tennessean. The teller handed the robber some cash and he left. A person with a police scanner heard about the robbery and watched a man leave the area near the bank. When police arrived, the person with the scanner identified the robbery suspect as the man seen leaving the bank and police placed the suspect under arrest.

ANDREWS TRUNKED SYSTEM UPDATE

Thanks to some good detective work by Mike Peyton and others, we have some additional information on the trunked system at Andrews Air Force Base. The former primary law enforcement channel, 413.375 [127.3], which had been simulcast with the system, no longer is and is now an input. Several of the pagers have been replaced as well. The latest information is:

406.350	(413.025) Voice/Control
406.9500	(413.200) Voice/Control
407.150	(413.275) Voice/Control
407.425	(413.375) Voice/Control
408.025	(415.150) Voice
408.200	(415.825) Voice
408.7500	(415.950) Voice
408.950	(416.250) Voice
409.350	Phone Patch
409.7250	Phone Patch

Noted users on the system include the command post, security police (both law enforcement and security), fire department, public works, and aircraft support. In installing this system, 408.025, which had been a WHCA UHF link for the pager, was replaced by the WAF (Navy) security frequency of 413.05. How much WAF is being affected by defense cuts remains to be seen.

OTHER FEDERAL TRUNKED NEWS

Mystery Trunked System. A number of folks have reported at least three mysterious trunk carriers in rotating operation. No voice has been heard to allow for identification, although the primary repeater site appears to be located atop some the NIH buildings in Bethesda. Technicians were monitored installing the system on 415.40 [146.2], but have not been heard in the last two months. The three frequencies are:

410.225
410.425
411.825

More Users on the Fort Belvoir/Tysons Trunked System. More users have been identified using this trunked system. They include elements of the 3rd US Infantry (The Old Guard) (identify by staff position - S1, S2, S3, S3 training, S4, etc.) and MDW billeting (Housekeeping and a number).

CIVIL AIR PATROL CHANGES UNIT IDENTIFICATIONS

Traffic monitored on Civil Air Patrol frequencies indicates that all wing identifications were changed effective Tuesday, 18 June 1996. One change that has been confirmed is for the District of Columbia Wing. It is no longer "Aero", but is "NATCAP" - an obvious acronym for national capitol (the official name of the DC wing). What the changes are in

Virginia (Blue Flite) and Maryland (Plant) are unknown. Any information should be forwarded to Alan (or to Bill hardman at hardman1@ix.netcom.com).

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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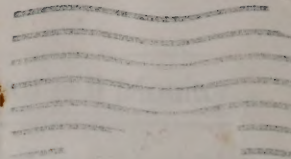
The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues are \$10 and include 12 issues (back issues cost \$1 each). Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney. Membership will be prorated accordingly in the event of a postage increase.

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!



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